

The Range Rider



THE GEESSE AND THE GOLDEN EGGS

"Two men each had a goose that laid golden eggs. Both knew that it is foolish to kill geese that lay golden eggs.

"One of the men let his goose run in the fields and forests, picking her own living. She came home frequently and deposited a golden egg beside the doorstep.

"The other man had a different plan. He followed his goose and observed her eating habits. He found that she preferred certain plants. The owner grew those plants in a special garden so that the goose would have plenty of her favorite foods. And the goose, eating more of them, began to lay more eggs, and the man prospered. He experimented and developed a feeding plan that kept the goose in the best laying condition.

"Meanwhile, the man who left his goose to forage for herself noticed that she was laying fewer and fewer eggs. She ate the natural plants that she liked down to the roots. They became scarce. Then she had to eat foods that were not so good and that is why her egg production declined. Finally, this owner became desperate. Weeks had passed since she had laid an egg and it had been days since he had eaten. He looked longingly at the goose and thought how delectable roast goose would taste. But he didn't want to kill a goose that laid golden eggs. He thought and thought about it.

One Man is Worried

"After an interval, the fowl laid another golden egg, but the man was worried. He realized that he might have to wait several weeks until he got another egg. So he decided on a new policy. He lived more frugally, so that there would be less danger of going hungry before the goose laid again. By this policy, he was able to get along fairly well. He gradually reduced his standard of living, and he was able to eat every day, although his fare was simple and meager compared to what it had been.

"The man reconciled himself to the change. He said: 'The old days are gone. The virgin resources have dwindled. My goose and I must learn to subsist on less and less. By using less today I will have more tomorrow. My planned economizing is conservation, and it is necessary at the present stage of my life.'

"He took to reading books on economics, trying to learn how to economize more effectively.

"The other man went on experimenting. He allowed his goose to set on one of the eggs and a gosling was hatched. The man felt greatly relieved, because he had worried over what would become of him when the goose grew old and died. Now, he felt, his future was assured. He would go on raising food for the goose and the gosling.

"As the gosling grew up, it began to lay golden eggs, and finally the first goose died, but the man went on having a good life, busy part of the time caring for his second goose and garden and part of the time enjoying the leisure and comfort that they provided him. He was proud of his foresight and planning.

The Other Has Abundance

"He said: 'I have learned to work with nature and not against her. Because of it I can look ahead to abundance through all the years of my life. Even my children can have abundance if they follow the technology I have developed.'

"He read books on conservation and nature.

"As time went on, the man whose conservation plan was that of economizing, had to scrimp more and more, because his goose, having to live off poorer and poorer food plants, laid few and fewer eggs. Finally he began buying feed for the goose. That helped in egg production, but it cut down on what the man could spend for himself. A time came when, with the best system of economy the man could work out, he was still hungry, too hungry to live without more food than he was able to purchase after buying for the goose. So he decided on a drastic course. He amputated the goose's legs and after that the wingless, legless goose lay in a box eating the food the man brought it, and occasionally laying an egg. Eventually the time between eggs became so long that the man was starving. Then to head off starvation a little longer, he killed and ate what was left of his goose that had laid golden eggs."

--By Ellery A. Foster, in Land Policy Review.

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CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

One of the first Certificates of Proficiency has been issued to Billie Burk Benson, G-2, Grand Junction, Colorado, for outstanding leadership of men in dam and truck trail construction. Enrollee Benson is leaving the Civilian Conservation Corps to join the Army in defense of our country. We are all proud of him and wish him a great deal of success and good luck.

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LISTEN IN, EVERYBODY

Chief of Safety of the Civilian Conservation Corps S. M. Lauderdale, will speak over the blue network of the National Broadcasting System on September 1, Sunday, at 12 o'clock noon, eastern standard time. His subject will be "Listen and Live", dealing with the development and effectiveness of the Civilian Conservation Corps safety program.

This time has been donated by the National Broadcasting System to the American Red Cross Association which has invited Mr. Lauderdale to speak.

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SOME RECENT STATISTICS COMPILED BY
THE NATIONAL RESOURCES PLANNING BOARD

Major Land Uses

	Acres	Percent
Land in Farms:		
Crop land harvested.....	359,000,000	18.9
Idle, failure, and waste.....	99,000,000	5.1
Flowable pasture.....	109,000,000	5.7
Nonplowable pasture.....	270,000,000	14.2
Woodland pasture.....	85,000,000	4.5
Woodland not pastured.....	65,000,000	3.4
	987,000,000	51.8
Land Not in Farms:		
Private forest (grazed).....	143,000,000	7.5
Public forest (grazed).....	106,000,000	5.6
Private forest (not grazed).....	151,000,000	7.9
Public forest (not grazed).....	57,000,000	3.0
Private grazing land.....	126,000,000	6.6
Public grazing land.....	203,000,000	10.7
Cities and towns.....	12,000,000	.7
Parks, reservations, etc.....	13,000,000	.7
Roads, railroads.....	23,000,000	1.1
Desert, swamps, rocky, and dunes.....	83,000,000	4.4
	917,000,000	48.2
Total Land.....		1,904,000,000
		100%

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WILDLIFE RESOLUTION

At the August 19th meeting of the advisory board of the Border Grazing District (New Mexico 3) a resolution was unanimously adopted which provided that two percent of the carrying capacity of the Federal range in each individual allotment be reserved for wildlife, with the privilege of the allottee to increase this number so long as the increase does not damage the range.

PETRIFIED WOOD FOUND IN GRAZING DISTRICT

Acting Regional Crazier Monte has reported that an area of land about 12 miles south of Drewsey, Oregon, in the Vale Grazing District, includes a considerable number of exceptionally fine specimens of petrified wood. An examination of the area was made at the request of Mr. Alfred E. Brown, a local geologist, who has submitted a specimen to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and has interested Mr. Ralph W. Chaney, head of the Department of Paleontology of the University of California, in the matter. Mr. Chaney is preparing a report on the land to the Carnegie Institute. In order that the specimens may be properly protected and preserved, Mr. Monte has had appropriate notices posted on the land and will inform the Oregon State Park Commission concerning the discovery.

The attention of the Director of the National Park Service has been directed to the existence of the petrified wood for consideration in connection with the establishment of national monuments.

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AN IDEA

We read in the Region 6 newsletter that a Montana stockman has put to use old oil and gasoline barrels as stock water troughs. These barrels were cut in half and placed in cradles made of saplings similar to flume cradles. The troughs were placed on a fairly steep slope with a pipe connecting them and a sapling fence protecting the troughs. Although the capacity of the troughs is not great, they are economical to construct and practicable.

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DO-U-NO

That two-thirds of the livestock in the United States are raised west of the Mississippi River?

That two-thirds of the meat they produce is consumed east of the Mississippi River?

That there is approximately the same number of cattle, sheep, and hogs in the United States as there are people?

That a crow can eat one hundred grasshoppers at a meal, and it eats several times a day?

That sheep were under man's supervision at least 12,000 to 15,000 B.C.?

--Dr. W. J. Butler.

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